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History of English Literature (1909) regards as the not proved but scarcely to be questioned "principal agent". Mr. Pierce is disposed, however, to give some weight to Throckmorton's affirmation, "I am not Martin. I knewe not Martin." Much points to him; but Mr. Pierce cautiously concludes:

All that we are compelled to say in a spirit of unprejudiced fairness is, that the identification of Job Throkmorton as Marprelate is not complete; and nothing that we have been able to adduce positively shuts out the existence of a Great Unknown, or makes it quite incredible that the assumptions of "Martin Junior" and "Martin Senior" and the solemn denial of Throkmorton, are in agreement with historic fact. We await the lucky discovery of the next student of these interesting documents to set our perplexities at rest.

It may be hoped that Mr. Pierce will soon publish the annotated edition of the text of the Marprelate Tracts which he has had for some time in preparation.

WILLISTON WALKER.

The Wars of Religion in France, 1559-1576: the Huguenots, Catherine de Medici, and Philip II. By JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON, Ph.D., Associate Professor of European History in the University of Chicago. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press; London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1909. Pp. xv, 635.)

THE eighteen chapters of this important work have been skilfully distributed by the writer into five parts, each part, except the first, of 100 pages. The first 130 pages sketch the condition of France from the death of Henry II. to the outbreak of the first civil war. The second describes the first civil war, the resultant brief war with England, and concludes with an excellent chapter on Early Local and Provincial Catholic Leagues; one of the most original and important parts of the book. One hundred pages are given to the royal tour of the provinces and the Conference of Bayonne, in which the author deftly makes evident the internal situation of France and her external relations. The fourth section consists of an account of the second and third civil wars. The final section of the book opens with a chapter on the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and the last two chapters sketch the formation of the *politique* faction, its relation to the crown and to the Huguenots until the Peace of Monsieur in 1576.

In a modest preface the author gives his "reasons for venturing to write a new book on an old subject". His book is his best excuse and he needs no other. Mr. Thompson's book is not only newer but also broader than Baird's excellent work on the *Rise of the Huguenots*, where the author limited his field by his title. And most important of all, in describing that bitter turmoil of interests and ideals Mr. Thompson is scrupulously impartial. Not that the able and scholarly Professor Baird ever showed the smallest indifference to evidence, but that his strong bias in favor of the Huguenots, naïvely shown by his use of adjectives, sometimes led him unconsciously to select for narration such

facts as produced on the mind of the reader a one-sided impression. The restrained and logical mood of Mr. Thompson and the colder tone of his narration have helped his scholarship to produce a just impression on the reader's mind without much need of considering the personal equation.

Copious foot-notes indicate the reasons for the conclusions presented in the condensed and swift narrative of one who is not afraid to throw his chips into these baskets and is not anxious to dazzle his readers by showing how skilfully he handles the tools of an historian. Occasionally, indeed, Mr. Thompson cites evidence which appears to me somewhat inconclusive. For example, Claude Haton, whose journal he uses, on the whole very skilfully, does not seem a strong authority on the intimate motives of the great personages at court. Occasionally Mr. Thompson omits a piece of evidence which might have made his narrative clearer. For example, an allusion to the letters from Catherine de Medici practically calling him to arms to aid the crown, which Condé exhibited, would have made plainer the rooted distrust of the Huguenots for the woman whose mind, they knew, was generally dominant at court. Without that rooted distrust, "small politics" would not, because it could not, have renewed the wars, and that distrust was not caused by the suspicions of a league for extermination formed at Bayonne, it was rather the cause of those suspicions which in their turn increased it. But, of course, the question of what to leave out in a condensed narrative is in each case a matter of personal judgment.

Mr. Thompson makes a very just claim, in the preface, to be "the first to acquaint English readers with some of the results of recent research in the economic history of sixteenth century France". Very skilfully, at proper intervals, he reminds his readers of the things that were making Frenchmen miserable and therefore desirous of change and apt for war. And it is natural that he should at times somewhat minimize the part that religion played in the wars of religion. But his own narrative shows that, however large programmes the Huguenots might put out at the beginning of a war to attract as many recruits as possible, the irreducible minimum of their demands when peace came in sight was always security for life and property, some liberty of worship, and guarantees that these promises should not be broken (pp. 190, 340, 346, 392). Not, of course, that the Huguenots were in any sense champions of toleration. What they wanted at first was a chance to convert France to Calvinism. Their ideal was plainly a country like England, where Roman Catholic opinion was tolerated and Roman Catholic worship, which they regarded as idolatrous, vigorously suppressed. If this ideal faded from their minds as the wars progressed, it was not because they grew more tolerant, but merely because they became less hopeful of converting France. Two types of Christianity, each hardened into a system and an organization, each much adulterated by anti-Christian tempers and desires, and therefore bitterly intol-

erant, were struggling to master France. In this desperate situation the crown was unwilling to throw its influence definitely on either side, and was afraid to venture on the rash wisdom of diverting this zeal and fury into a renewal of the war with the hated Spaniard which had been the chief cause of the disorder of its finances. Researches into the economic and political conditions of the sixteenth century have shown that many impulses and motives contributed to make the civil wars, but these results have not in the least altered the outstanding fact that the unsurmountable obstacles to making a permanent peace were the zeal, the fear, the hate bred, not so much by difference of religion as by difference of opinion about religion. Mr. Thompson, in the passages I have in mind, is probably only emphasizing to his readers the newer elements in his picture. His complete grasp of the situation is, after all, shown on page 409 by his allusion to Lincoln's celebrated speech and his apt comparison of the part played by the question of religion in the civil wars of France in the sixteenth century with the part played by the question of slavery in our civil war.

The style of the book is dignified and readable, pleasantly dashed with an occasional colloquialism reminiscent of the memoirs the author has been reading. Mr. Thompson has, however, a tendency to employ participial phrases somewhat monotonously and a drift toward the use of the passive mood. He also overworks his auxiliaries; for example, "The Seine and the Loire would have had to be crossed."

Appendices of seventy pages contain some forty documents. These are taken, for the most part, from the English State Papers, with half a dozen from the Archives Nationales and three or four from other collections. It has always seemed to me that the letter of the Duke of Guise to the Cardinal of Lorraine (appendix III.), which is printed in Condé's *Memoirs*, might easily be a Huguenot forgery. It seems improbable that Guise, when despatches were notoriously unsafe, would, at so critical a moment in the negotiations between parties, commit to writing a superfluous expression of exultation in a letter referring to the bearer for other messages.

Mr. Thompson has put the general reader and the scholar under obligations to him by this excellent work. It is to be hoped that he will enlarge the favor by writing a second volume on the Wars of the League.

PAUL VAN DYKE.

Roma prima di Sisto V.: La Pianta di Roma du Pérac-Lafréry del 1577 riprodotta dall' Esemplare esistente nel Museo Britannico.
Per Cura e con Introduzione di FRANCESCO EHRLE d.C.d.G.,
Prefetto della Biblioteca Vaticana. Contributo alla Storia del
Commercio delle Stampe a Roma nel Secolo 16° e 17°. (Rome:
Danesi. 1908.)

THE topography of ancient Rome has always had great aid from printed, written, and iconographical documents of the sixteenth century.